

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/870,923

Examiner

Joseph A. Fischetti

Applicant(s)

GAGNE ET AL.

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/23/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Clear statement:

None of the art of record discloses or suggests a method for electronically acquiring request information and documentation for the shipping including the steps of : electronically verifying said requester against said electronic database to ensure a proper requester; verifying electronically said approving manager or said approving manager designee against an electronic manager delegation database to ensure a proper authorization; notifying electronically a requester's manager when said approving manager designee provides authorizations;; determining electronically from said request which next required approving manager or next required approving manager designee should be notified for awareness, documentation. or approval. None of the art of record discloses these features because verifying against a proper requester would not appear necessary because the prior art systems appear to allow unregistered requesters such as in the case with vendors requesting orders in an open chain supply system.

How Claims distinguish over the closest Prior Art:

Saito '832 discloses a method for electronically acquiring request information and documentation for the shipping. It discloses: providing an electronic database (ordering database 1) adapted to receive a shipping instruction from a requester; notifying said requester's approving manager or approving manager designee of said request for an initial approval is read as

Art Unit: 3627

step S27 which a step connecting the process to a manager. However, this reference fails to disclose or suggest the following steps of claim 10 which was amended to include : electronically verifying said requester against said electronic database to ensure a proper requester; verifying electronically said approving manager or said approving manager designee against an electronic manager delegation database to ensure a proper authorization: notifying electronically a requester's manager when said approving manager designee provides authorizations; determining electronically from said request which next required approving manager or next required approving manager designee should be notified for awareness, documentation. or approval. Similarly, Altenahl et al '213 while it discloses parcel management system having fields hyperlinked to other data controls and shipping approval concerns fails to likewise disclose or suggest: which were amended to include : electronically verifying said requester against said electronic database to ensure a proper requester; verifying electronically said approving manager or said approving manager designee against an electronic manager delegation database to ensure a proper authorization: notifying electronically a requester's manager when said approving manager designee provides authorizations; determining electronically from said request which next required approving manager or next required approving manager designee should be notified for awareness, documentation. or approval.

In addition to the above, the claim 10 includes numerous other sequential steps such as, notifying electronically said next required approving manager or said next required approving manager designee after said initial approval;

Art Unit: 3627

prompting electronically said requester to prepare documents for moving goods and materials to a designated shipping location; notifying electronically said requester continuously via electronic mail of the status of said request, notifying electronically said requester of approved request after all approvals have been granted which are neither disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

Best Art in Each Category:

US Reference:

Saito '832 is the closest US reference and discloses a method for electronically acquiring request information and documentation for the shipping. It discloses: providing an electronic database (ordering database 1) adapted to receive a shipping instruction from a requester; notifying said requester's approving manager or approving manager designee of said request for an initial approval is read as step S27 which a step connecting the process to a manager. However, this reference fails to disclose or suggest the following steps which were amended to include : electronically verifying said requester against said electronic database to ensure a proper requester; verifying electronically said approving manager or said approving manager designee against an electronic manager delegation database to ensure a proper authorization: notifying electronically a requester's manager when said approving manager designee provides authorizations;, determining electronically from said request which next required approving manager or next required approving manager designee should be notified for awareness, documentation. or approval. In addition to the above, the claim 10 includes numerous other sequential steps such as, notifying

Art Unit: 3627

electronically said next required approving manager or said next required approving manager designee after said initial approval; prompting electronically said requester to prepare documents for moving goods and materials to a designated shipping location; notifying electronically said requester continuously via electronic mail of the status of said request, notifying electronically said requester of approved request after all approvals have been granted which are neither disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

Foreign:

EPO 0527 423 A2 discloses an electronic cash register, but does not involve any shipping approval steps as claimed.

NPL:

"Azerity's New Prochannel" 5 discloses a method whereby an OEM is linked to sales activities to insure proper shipping, but no shipping approval steps are disclosed or suggested.

References Cited for the following reasons:

6510997 Cited for the general background in canning;

5421778 Cited for the general background in labeling;

6525835 Cited for the general background in shipping/tracking;

6697702 Cited for the general background in shipping transactions.

6490493 Cited for the general background in management;

6505094 Cited for the general background in shipping/tracking;

6687848 Cited for the general background in business to business;

5923014 Cited for the general background in scanning ;

Art Unit: 3627

5930768 Cited for the general background in business to business;
5910868 Cited for the general background in shipping transactions;
5758329 Cited for the general background in business to business;
6690997 Cited for the general background in pick-up/delivery;
6167378 Cited for the general background in management;
2003/0191710 Cited for the general background in shipping/tracking;
6721762 Cited for the general background in shipping/tracking;
6581204 Cited for the general background in tracking;
6324522 Cited for the general background in business to business;
6058373 Cited for the general background in electronic forms.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PRIMARY EXAMINER Joseph A. Fischetti whose telephone number is (703) 305-0731. The examiner can normally be reached on MAXIFLEX.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 3627

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 28, change the dependency from "28" to --10--.

A handwritten signature, possibly reading "JF", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.